

**Start** In this age of accelerated technological

us and natural shocks that flesh is heir to, the earthquake is

new this quake was unlike any I had previously experienced.

enced, it was longer. 45 seconds long. Normally, our

stumbled our way back to reality. For some, it was an



and social change, it is always a comfort to

one of the most unsettling. On Feb. 28, 2001,

I could feel each seismic wave roll through

earthquakes give a couple jolts, and by the time you

adventure, for others, pure terror. This quake was



depend on the cycles of nature to provide a

I was in the basement of the Washington State

the concrete floor as if I was on a waterbed.

think about it, it is over. But during the last 10



bad enough that our area will require several years



consistent anchor to reality. But here in Washington State, nature is cunning. This is earthquake country, but the

Library, only 10 miles from the epicenter of a 6.8 shaker. At first I felt the slight tremor and obeyed my "duck and

And each wave grew in intensity. It was probably just as well I couldn't see anything, the sounds were bad enough,

or 15 seconds of this one, I had time to think instead of just react. And what I was thinking was, "Well, I guess we're

to rebuild some basic public bridges, roads, and buildings. The quake has become an Epiphany for many people as



big ones are infrequent enough for us to forget  
cover" training that all Washingtonians are taught  
like a combination of a freight train, breaking  
biting the big one now." Then the sound tapered  
they re-evaluate the pieces of their lives in the



the horror and pretend the ground is solid for awhile,

through school. Then the lights went out, throwing

glass, and someone banging cymbals together.

off, and a couple small seismic waves silently sped

course of putting things back together. We will be



only to be jolted by another humbling rumbling. Of the thousand quakes I have experienced, this was the most powerful. It jolted the entire basement into blackness. After a few seconds I knew it was over, but the aftershocks continued. But this quake was not only stronger than any I had experienced, it was also longer. We lay in the dark, listening to the aftershocks, and we slowly picked ourselves up and, numb, went back to bed. We were still living with the aftershocks of this one for a long time.

## 6.8 Aftershocks

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